

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 MC-02

ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /081 W

-----031342Z 053726 /42

P 031209Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4539

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1863

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, PINS, SU

SUBJECT: SUDANESE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 1813, (B) STATE 127293

1. IN LIGHT REF B, PERHAPS I SHOULD EXPAND A BIT ON INFO PROVIDED PARA 4 REF A. MINDEF BESHIR MOHAMED ALI, IN DISCUSSING FINANCING REQUIREMENTS AND SAUDI AID, MADE TWO POINTS. FIRST WAS THAT ALTHOUGH SAUDIS HAD AGREED PROVIDE SOME FINANCING MILITARY PURCHASES, HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THEY UNLIKELY PROVIDE ALL THAT WAS NEEDED. HE DID NOT RPT NOT MENTION SPECIFIC AMOUNTS, BUT WE HAVE HEARD FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES THAT SAUDIS HAVE AGREED PROVIDE SOME \$200 TO 300 MILLION TO FINANCE SUDANESE MILITARY PURCHASES. HOWEVER, MINDEF BELIEVES SUDANESE REQUIREMENTS ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL COST OVER \$500 MILLION.

2. HIS SECOND POINT WAS THAT FOR EACH SPECIFIC AGREEMENT SUDANESE HAD TO GO THROUGH GREAT EFFORT TO SECURE SAUDI ASSISTANCE. WHILE HE MAY HAVE MEANT THAT CERTAIN AMOUNT OF STUDIES, RED TAPE, ETC. WERE INVOLVED, I THINK HE WAS PRIMARILY REFERRING

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TO DEGREE OF HIGH-LEVEL MASSAGING REQUIRED. FOR EXAMPLE, HE NOTED THAT HIGH-LEVEL EMISSARIES OFTEN HAD TO MAKE THE TREK TO SAUDI ARABIA, AND HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED NIMEIRI'S OWN VISITS THERE.

3. MINDEF DID NOT RPT NOT EVEN HINT THAT USG CREDITS WOULD BE REQUESTED, BUT HE SUGGESTED

THAT, HOWEVER RELUCTANTLY, SUDANGOV WILL HAVE TO
DIVERT FUNDS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO MILITARY
NEEDS. AT THIS POINT I NOTED THAT UNDER NEW US
ARMS SALES POLICY WE WOULD CONSIDER EFFECT ARMS
PURCHASES WOULD HAVE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
AS NOTED REF A, MINDEF SAID MILITARY REQUIREMENTS
NOW HAVE TOP PRIORITY IN SUDANESE BUDGET.

4. IT WOULD SEEM UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES
SUDANGOV WILL PRESS SAUDIS FOR EVEN MORE ASSISTANCE.
WE CANNOT SAY HOW THEY WILL RESPOND, ALTHOUGH WE
BEGINNING TO HEAR AGAIN THAT LARGE (\$400 MILLION)
SAUDI BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE PACKAGE
WILL BE IMPLEMENTED SOON.
BOGOSIAN

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